



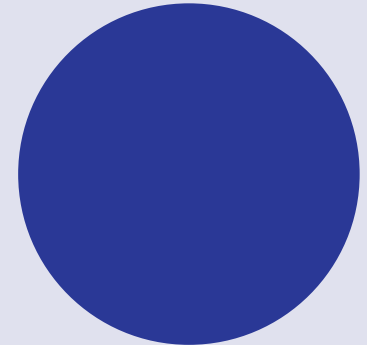
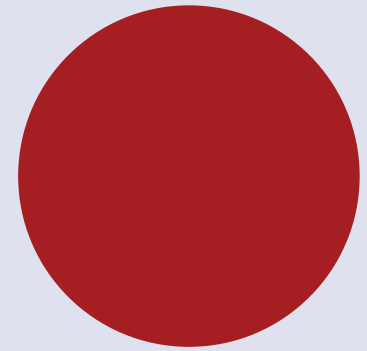
Relient K



For the last ten years of my life, give or take, there has been one band that I always go back to, that I listen to when I'm in serious need of a pick-me-up, or just need to feel sane. That band is Relient K. I couldn't tell you the year or month, but I still remember that first time I heard their song "Who I Am Hates Who I've Been" playing from the TV where I'd left it on a radio station while I did my homework. As the lyrics penetrated my concentration, I remember setting aside my notebook and pen, getting up and coming closer, turning the volume up, and listening so, so closely:



"'Cause I don't want you to know where I am
'Cause then you'll see my heart in the saddest
state it's ever been
And this is no place to try and live my life...
Stop right there, that's exactly where I lost it
See that line, well I never should have crossed
it
Stop right there, well I never should have said
That it's the very moment that I wish that I
could take back..."



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After just going through a trial my teenage self truly saw as tragic, these lyrics struck a chord deep inside, stripping me bare and helping me realize that maybe I wasn't the only one who had experienced such a tantamount level of shame. And it was the moment Relient K became the source of immense comfort and understanding throughout the years to come.

